

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please add new claims 21-42.

**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (**currently amended**) A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding human caspase 7 (SEQ ID NO:3), wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with the 5' untranslated region, 5' cap region, intron:exon junction, or translation termination codon region and inhibits the expression of human caspase 7 (SEQ ID NO:3).

Claim 2 (**original**) The compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claim 3 (**canceled**)

Claim 4 (**original**) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

Claim 5 (**original**) The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

Claim 6 (**original**) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

Claim 7 (**original**) The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

Claim 8 (**original**) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

Claim 9 (**original**) The compound of claim 8 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

Claim 10 (**original**) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

Claim 11 (**previously amended**) A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length which specifically hybridizes with at least an 8-nucleobase portion of an active site on a nucleic acid molecule encoding caspase 7 (SEQ ID NO:3).

Claim 12 (**original**) A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 13 (**original**) The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

Claim 14 (**original**) The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claim 15 (**original**) A method of inhibiting the expression of caspase 7 in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of caspase 7 is inhibited.

Claims 16 (**original**) A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with caspase 7 comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of caspase 7 is inhibited.

Claim 17 (**original**) The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is an inflammatory condition.

Claim 18 (**original**) The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is a hyperproliferative disorder.

Claim 19 (**original**) The method of claim 18 wherein the hyperproliferative disorder is cancer.

Claim 20 (**original**) The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is a bone metabolism or cholesterol disorder.

Claim 21 (**new**) A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding human caspase 7 (SEQ ID NO:3), wherein said compound specifically hybridizes to a region comprising nucleobases 48-68, 84-104, 94-114, 104-124, 111-131, 138-158, 145-165, 168-188, 230-250, 332-352, 338-358, 344-364, 354-374, 371-391, 425-445, 496-516, 567-587, 577-597, 713-733, 716-736, 745-765, 751-771, 778-798, 792-812, 807-817, 911-931, 930-950, 971-991, 977-117, 1075-1095, 1116-1136, 1229-1249, 1237-1257, 1265-1285, 1268-1288, 1363-1383, 1370-1390, 1372-1392, 1407-1427, 1452-1472, 1504-1524, 1551-1571, 1615-1635, 1663-1683, 1721-1741, 1747-1767, 1781-1801, 1783-1803, 1803-1823, 1861-1881, 1899-1919, 1939-1959, 1948-1968, 2006-2026, 2069-2089, 2077-2097, 2109-2129, or 2290-2310, and inhibits the expression of human caspase 7 (SEQ ID NO:3).

B1

Claim 22 (**new**) The compound of claim 21 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claim 23 (**new**) The compound of claim 22 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

Claim 24 (**new**) The compound of claim 23 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

Claim 25 (**new**) The compound of claim 22 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

Claim 26 (new) The compound of claim 25 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

Claim 27 (new) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

Claim 28 (new) The compound of claim 27 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

Claim 29 (new) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

Claim 30 (new) A composition comprising the compound of claim 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 31 (new) The composition of claim 30 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

Claim 32 (new) The composition of claim 30 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claim 33 (new) A method of inhibiting the expression of caspase 7 in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the compound of claim 21 so that expression of caspase 7 is inhibited.

Claim 34 (new) A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with caspase 7 comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 21 so that expression of caspase 7 is inhibited.

Claim 35 (**new**) The method of claim 34 wherein the disease or condition is an inflammatory condition.

Claim 36 (**new**) The method of claim 34 wherein the disease or condition is a hyperproliferative disorder.

Claim 37 (**new**) The method of claim 36 wherein the hyperproliferative disorder is cancer.

Claim 38 (**new**) The method of claim 34 wherein the disease or condition is a bone metabolism or cholesterol disorder.

*B* |  
Claim 39 (**new**) The compound of any one of claims 1, 2 or 11 wherein said compound inhibits human caspase 7 (SEQ ID NO:3) by at least 60%.

Claim 40 (**new**) The method of any one of claims 15, 16, 33 or 34 wherein said inhibition is at least 60%.

Claim 41 (**new**) The compound of claim 39 wherein said compound inhibits human caspase 7 (SEQ ID NO:3) by at least 80%.

Claim 42 (**new**) The method of claim 40 wherein said inhibition is at least 80%.